

REMARKS

Claims 14-21 and 46-62 were pending as of the Office Action mailed March 24, 2011. Claims 14, 16-21, 46, 48-53, 54, 56-61 have been amended. Claims 15, 47, and 55 have been canceled.

Section 102 Rejections

Claims 14-21 and 46-61 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), for allegedly being anticipated by Hargrave et al., (U.S. Patent No. 5,724,593, hereinafter "Hargrave").

Claim 14 now recites:

14. A computer-implemented method, the method comprising:
 - receiving a search query from a user device, wherein the search query includes one or more terms, each term being written in a first format;
 - translating the one or more terms of the search query into a group of translated search queries, each translated search query having one or more terms in a second format, using a probabilistic dictionary, the probabilistic dictionary mapping terms from the first format to the second format according to a calculated probability that a particular term in the first format corresponds to a term in the second format;
 - using a search engine to identify a plurality of documents written in the second format that are responsive to the group of translated search queries;
 - providing search results written in the second format to the user device, the search results referencing one or more of the identified documents;
 - obtaining search result selections from the user device; and
 - modifying the probabilistic dictionary of term mappings based at least in part on the obtained selections.

Hargrave discloses:

In the preferred embodiment, the use of normalized vectors simplifies the determination of similarity between the query vector and the text segment vectors of the TM. In step 913, an array is created having an entry for each text segment in the aligned pair file 403. Associated with each array entry is a score that is initially set to zero. As each n-gram is selected in turn, the normalized entropy weight of the selected n-gram in the query vector is multiplied by the normalized entropy weight for the selected n-gram in each text segment in the aligned pair. It will be recalled that the normalized entropy weight for the selected n-gram in each text segment in the aligned pair is available from the posting vector. The result of this multiplication is added to the score associated with the text segment entry. As each n-gram in the query vector is processed, the array accumulates a

score, which will be between 0.0 and 1.0 in the method of the preferred embodiment, representing the similarity between the query vector and each of the text segment vectors.
(Hargrave at 13:41-57, emphasis added.)

However, the relied on portions of Hargrave do not describe “obtaining search result selections from the user device; and modifying the probabilistic dictionary of term mappings based at least in part on the obtained selections” as recited in amended claim 14.

Accordingly, claim 14 is not anticipated by Hargrave. Claims 46 and 54 are in condition for allowance for at least the same reasons.

Conclusion

All of the dependent claims are patentable for at least the same reasons as those for the claims on which they depend are patentable.

By responding in the foregoing remarks only to particular positions taken by the Examiner, Applicant does not acquiesce with other positions that have not been explicitly addressed. In addition, Applicant's arguments for the patentability of a claim should not be understood as implying that no other reasons for the patentability of that claim exist. Finally, Applicant's decision to amend or cancel any claim should not be understood as implying that Applicant agrees with any positions taken by the Examiner with respect to that claim or other claims.

The RCE fee and three (3) month extension of time fees are being paid concurrently herewith on the Electronic Filing System (EFS) by way of Deposit Account authorization. Please apply any other credits or charges to Deposit Account No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

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